

Serial No. 09/936,015
Attorney Docket: 11155-004

Amendments to the claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1: (currently amended) A powder coating composition comprising composite powder particles that are an agglomerate of individual particulate components fused or bonded together, wherein the size distribution of the agglomerate of particles is up to a maximum of 120 μ m with a Dv.50 within the range of from 15 to 75 μ m, wherein the individual particulate components comprise

- (1) two or more colored base components having a Dv.99 of no more than 30 μ m, wherein at least one of the colored base components is per se non-film-forming and comprises one or more coloring agents dispersed in a carrier, and
- (2) one or more uncolored film-forming components, wherein at least one of the uncolored film-forming components is an uncolored film-forming component (2a) and
 - (i) has a Dv.99 that is more than 20 μ m and
 - (ii) has a higher Dv.99 than the Dv.99 of the two or more colored base components (1) taken together or has a higher Dv.50 than the Dv.50 of the two or more colored base components (1) taken together,

wherein, the ratio of colored base components to the one or more uncolored film-forming components in the powder coating composition is from 1:99 to 60:40 by weight.

Claim 2: (previously amended) The powder coating composition of claim 1, wherein the one or more uncolored film-forming components (2a) are present in an amount of at least 10% by weight of components (1) and (2).

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Claim 3: (previously amended) The powder coating composition of claim 1, wherein there is no more than 30% by weight, calculated on the weight of the total of components (1) and (2), of one or more uncolored film-forming components (2b) having a Dv.99 (i) that is no higher than the Dv.99 of the colored base components taken together and (ii) that is less than 20 μ m.

Claim 4: (currently amended) A powder coating composition comprising composite powder particles that are an agglomerate of individual particulate components fused or bonded together into composite particles, wherein the size distribution of the agglomerate of particles is up to a maximum of 120 μ m with a Dv.50 within the range of from 15 to 75 μ m, wherein the individual particulate components comprise

- (1) two or more colored base components each having a Dv.99 of no more than 30 μ m, wherein at least one of the colored base components is non-film-forming and comprises one or more coloring agents dispersed in a carrier, the two or more colored base components (1) being in an amount of from 1 to 60% by weight of the total of components (1) and (2), and
- (2)(a) one or more uncolored film-forming components each having
 - (i) a Dv.99 of more than 20 μ m, and
 - (ii) a higher Dv.99 than the Dv.99 of the colored base components (1) taken together, and/or a higher Dv.50 than the Dv.50 of the colored base components (1) taken together,the one or more uncolored film-forming components 2(a) being in an amount of from 10 to 99% by weight of the total of components (1) and (2), and optionally,
- (b) one or more second uncolored film-forming components, in an amount of up to 30% by weight of the total of components (1) and (2).

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Claim 5: (previously amended) The powder coating composition of claim 1, wherein at least one of the one or more uncolored film-forming components (2a) has a Dv.99 of no more than 90 μ m.

Claim 6: (previously amended) The powder coating composition of claim 1, wherein at least one of the one or more uncolored film-forming components (2a) has a Dv.99 of at least 30 μ m.

Claim 7: (previously amended) The powder coating composition of claim 6, wherein at least one of the one or more uncolored film-forming components (2a) has a Dv.99 of at least 35 μ m.

Claim 8: (previously amended) The powder coating composition of claim 7, wherein at least one of the one or more uncolored film-forming components (2a) has a Dv.99 of at least 40 μ m.

Claim 9: (previously amended) The powder coating composition of claim 1, wherein at least one of the one or more uncolored film-forming components (2a) has a Dv.90 of at least 14 μ m.

Claim 10: (previously amended) The powder coating composition of claim 9, wherein at least one of the one or more uncolored film-forming components (2a) has a Dv.90 of at least 18 μ m.

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- Claim 11: (previously amended) The powder coating composition of claim 1, wherein at least one of the one or more uncolored film-forming components (2a) has a Dv.90 of no more than 75 μ m.
- Claim 12: (previously amended) The powder coating composition of claim 8, wherein at least one of the one or more uncolored film-forming components (2a) has a Dv.99 in the range of from 50 to 65 μ m.
- Claim 13: (previously amended) The powder coating composition of claim 1, wherein at least one of the one or more uncolored film-forming components (2a) has a Dv.50 in the range of from 5 to 45 μ m.
- Claim 14: (previously amended) The powder coating composition of claim 13, wherein at least one of the one or more uncolored film-forming components (2a) has a Dv.50 of at least 8 μ m.
- Claim 15: (previously amended) The powder coating composition of claim 14, wherein at least one of the one or more uncolored film-forming components (2a) has a Dv.99 of at least 40 μ m and a Dv.50 of at least 10 μ m.
- Claim 16: (previously amended) The powder coating composition of claim 14, wherein at least one of the one or more uncolored film-forming components (2a) has a Dv.50 in the range of from 12 to 30 μ m.

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- Claim 17: (previously amended) The powder coating composition of claim 1, wherein the colored base components have a Dv.99 in the range of from 6 to 25 μ m.
- Claim 18: (previously amended) The powder coating composition of claim 1, wherein the colored base components have a Dv.50 of no more than 18 μ m.
- Claim 19: (previously amended) The powder coating composition of claim 18, wherein the colored base components have a Dv.50 of no more than 15 μ m.
- Claim 20: (previously amended) The powder coating composition of claim 19, wherein the colored base components have a Dv.50 in the range of from 2 to 12 μ m.
- Claim 21: (previously amended) The powder coating composition of claim 1, wherein the colored base components contain from 5 to 75 weight % of pigment, calculated on the total weight of the colored base components.
- Claim 22: (previously amended) The powder coating composition of claim 1, wherein the colored base components contain from 0.5 to 50 weight % of pigment, calculated on the total weight of the composition.
- Claim 23: (previously amended) The powder coating composition of claim 4, wherein the colored base components comprises at least one colored film-forming component that is compatible with the colored non-film-forming base component(s).

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Claim 24: (previously amended) The powder coating composition of claim 23, wherein at least one of the uncolored film-forming components (2) is compatible with the colored base components (1) when heated at a temperature in the range of from 90° to 280°C during film-formation.

Claim 25: (previously amended) The powder coating composition of claim 23, wherein at least one of the uncolored film-forming components is incompatible with the colored base component(s) (1) or becomes incompatible therewith when heated at a temperature in the range of from 90° to 280° C during film-formation.

Claim 26: (previously amended) The powder coating composition of claim 1, wherein at least one of the two or more colored base components (1) is film-forming and comprises a polyester.

Claim 27: (previously amended) The powder coating composition of claim 1, comprising two uncolored film-forming components, wherein one of the uncolored film-forming components is compatible with the colored base components and one of the uncolored film-forming components is incompatible with or becomes incompatible with the colored base components when heated at a temperature in the range of from 90° to 280°C during film formation.

Claim 28: (previously amended) The powder coating composition of claim 1, wherein at least one of the one or more uncolored film-forming components comprises a polyester.

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Claim 29: (previously amended) The powder coating composition of claim 27, wherein each of the uncolored film-forming components comprises a polyester and the polyesters of the uncolored film-forming components differ in functionality.

Claim 30: (previously amended) The powder coating composition of claim 1, comprising two polyester film-forming components containing different curing agents, wherein one of the curing agents is an epoxy curing agent or a co-reactable epoxy resin.

Claim 31: (previously amended) The powder coating composition of claim 4, wherein the uncolored film-forming component (2) comprises as component (2a) or (2b) an agglomerate of an one or more uncolored film-forming component fused or bonded with a non-film forming component to form composite particles.

Claim 32: (previously amended) The powder coating composition of claim 4, wherein component (2a) or (2b) further comprises a texturing additive that is agglomerated with the uncoloured film-forming component or co-extruded therewith followed by comminution.

Claim 33: (previously amended) The powder coating composition of claim 31, wherein the agglomerated uncoloured film-forming component (2a) or (2b) further comprises mica.

Claim 34: (previously amended) The powder coating composition of claim 1, wherein the ratio of the two or more colored base components (1) to the one or more uncolored film-forming components (2a) is in the range of from 1:99 to 50:50 by weight.

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Claim 35: (previously amended) The powder coating composition of claim 34, wherein the ratio of the two or more colored base components (1) to the one or more uncolored film-forming components (2a) is in the range of from 1:99 to 40:60 by weight.

Claim 36: (previously amended) The powder coating composition of claim 35, wherein the ratio of the two or more colored base components (1) to the one or more uncolored film-forming components (2a) is in the range of from 1:99 to 30:70 by weight.

Claim 37: (previously amended) The powder coating composition of claim 1, wherein the ratio of the two or more colored base components (1) to the one or more uncolored film-forming components (2a) is in the range of from 5:95 to 30:70.

Claim 38: (previously amended) The powder coating composition of claim 1, wherein the one or more uncolored film-forming components (2) are present in an amount of at least 50% by weight of the total of components (1) and (2).

Claim 39: (previously amended) The powder coating composition of claim 38, wherein the one or more uncolored film-forming components (2) are present in an amount of at least 60% by weight of the total of components (1) and (2).

Claim 40: (previously amended) The powder coating composition of claim 39, wherein the one or more uncolored film-forming components (2) are present in an amount of at least 70% by weight of the total of components (1) and (2).

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Claim 41: (previously amended) The powder coating composition of claim 2, wherein the one or more uncolored film-forming components (2a) are present in an amount of at least 20% by weight of the total of components (1) and (2).

Claim 42: (previously amended) The powder coating composition of claim 41, wherein the one or more uncolored film-forming components (2a) are present in an amount of at least 30% by weight of the total of components (1) and (2).

Claim 43: (previously amended) The powder coating composition of claim 42, wherein the one or more uncolored film-forming components (2a) are present in an amount of at least 40% by weight of the total of components (1) and (2).

Claim 44: (previously amended) The powder coating composition of claim 43, wherein the one or more uncolored film-forming components (2a) are present in an amount of at least 50% by weight of the total of components (1) and (2).

Claim 45: (previously amended) The powder coating composition of claim 44, wherein the one or more uncolored film-forming components (2a) are present in an amount of at least 60% by weight of the total of components (1) and (2).

Claim 46: (previously amended) The powder coating composition of claim 4, wherein there is no more than 15% by weight, calculated on the weight of components (1) and (2), of the one or more uncolored film-forming components (2a).

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Claim 47: (previously amended) The powder coating composition of claim 1, wherein the individual particulate components of the agglomerate further comprise one or more other non-film-forming components.

Claim 48: (previously amended) The powder coating composition of claim 1, wherein the individual particulate components of the agglomerate further comprise a texturing agent.

Claim 49: (previously amended) The powder coating composition of claim 47, wherein the one or more other non-film-forming components constitute up to 50% by weight of the total particulate components of the composition.

Claim 50: (previously amended) A kit for the preparation of powder coatings in a number of different colors comprising:

- (1) a plurality of colored base components, each with a Dv.99 of no more than 30 μ m, wherein at least one of the colored base components is per se non-film-forming and comprises one or more coloring agents dispersed in a carrier, and
- (2) one or more uncolored film-forming components each having a higher Dv.99 than the Dv.99 of the colored base components or a higher Dv.50 than the Dv.50 of the colored base components, and having a Dv.99 that is greater than 20 μ m.

Claim 51: (previously amended) The kit of claim 50, wherein at least one of the uncolored film-forming components has a Dv.99 of no more than 90 μ m.

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Claim 52: (previously amended) The kit of claim 50, comprising at least 7 differently colored base components.

Claim 53: (previously amended) The kit of claim 50, comprising an uncolored film-forming component that is compatible when heated at a temperature in the range of from 90° to 280°C during film-formation with the colored base components and an uncolored film-forming component that is incompatible with the colored base components or that becomes incompatible with the colored base components when heated at a temperature in the range of from 90° to 280°C during film-formation.

Claim 54: (previously amended) A kit for the preparation of powder coatings in a number of different colors comprising:

- (1) at least 7 differently colored base components, each having a Dv.99 of no more than 30 μm , at least one of which is per se non-film forming and comprises one or more coloring agents dispersed in a carrier,
- (2) an uncolored film-forming component that is compatible with the colored base components and remains compatible when heated at a temperature in the range of from 90° to 280°C during film-formation and having Dv.99 that is higher than the Dv.99 of the colored base components (1) and that is more than 20 μm but not more than 90 μm ,
and
- (3) an uncolored film-forming component that is incompatible with the colored base components or that becomes incompatible with the colored base components when heated at a temperature in the range of from 90° to 280°C during film-formation and having a Dv.99 that is

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higher than the Dv.99 of the colored base components (1) and that is more than 20 μ m but not more than 90 μ m.

Claim 55: (previously amended) The kit of claim 54, further comprising means for comminution of the colored base components.

Claim 56: (previously amended) The kit of claim 50, wherein the one or more uncolored film-forming components are present in an amount of at least 10% by weight of the colored base components and the one or more uncolored film-forming components.

Claim 57: (previously amended) The kit of claim 50, comprising at least 3 uncolored film-forming components.

Claim 58: (previously amended) The kit of claim 50, further comprising means for agglomerating the components to produce a fluidizable powder.

Claim 59: (currently amended) A process for preparing the powder coating composition of claim 1, comprising providing the two or more colored base components (1) and the one or more uncolored film-forming components (2a) to provide a mixture of components and mixing and agglomerating the mixture of components into composite particles, wherein the composite particles have a size distribution up to a maximum of 120 μ m with a Dv.50 within the range of from 15 to 75 μ m and can be applied to a substrate by electrostatic spray.

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Claim 60: (currently amended) A process for preparing the powder coating composition of claim 1 from a kit comprising a plurality of differently colored base components, wherein at least one of the colored base components is per se non-film-forming and comprises one or more coloring agents dispersed in a carrier, and one or more uncolored film-forming components having a Dv.99 of more than 40 μ m, which comprises comminuting at least two of the colored base components to provide powders having a Dv.99 of no more than 30 μ m, and mixing and agglomerating the two or more comminuted colored base components and at least one of the uncolored film-forming components to form composite particles, wherein the composite particles have a size distribution up to a maximum of 120 μ m with a Dv.50 within the range of from 15 to 75 μ m and are air-fluidizable and can be applied to a substrate by electrostatic spray.

Claim 61: (previously amended) A powder coating composition prepared by the process of claim 59.

Claim 62: (previously amended) A process for forming a coating on a substrate, comprising applying the agglomerated composition of claim 1 to a substrate and heating the applied composition to form a continuous coating.

Claim 63: (canceled)

Claim 64: (canceled)

Claim 65: (canceled)

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Claim 66: (canceled)

Claim 67: (currently amended) A powder coating composition, comprising an agglomerate of individual particulate components fused or bonded together into composite particles, wherein the size distribution of the agglomerate of particles is up to a maximum of 120 μ m with a Dv.50 within the range of from 15 to 75 μ m, and the individual particulate components comprise:

- (i) at least one colored non-film-forming base component, wherein the at least one colored film-forming base component has a Dv.99 of no more than 30 μ m and comprises one or more coloring agents dispersed in a carrier, and
- (ii) an uncolored film-forming component compatible with component (i), wherein the uncolored film-forming component has a Dv.99 that is more than 20 μ m and not more than 90 μ m, and is higher than the Dv.99 of the at least one colored non-film-forming base component (i),

and, optionally,

- (iii) at least one colored film-forming base component compatible with components (i) and (ii) and having a Dv.99 of no more than 30 μ m, and/or
- (iv) a second uncolored film-forming component having a Dv.99 of more than 20 μ m and not more than 90 μ m, that is incompatible with components (i) and (ii) or that becomes incompatible with components (i) and (ii) when heated at a temperature in the range of from 90° to 280°C during film-formation,

and optionally one or more other components selected from film-forming and non-film-forming components.

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Claim 68: (previously amended) The powder coating composition of claim 67, wherein the composition has a pigment content that is at least 0.5% by weight and the composition comprises at least 50% by weight of film-forming component(s).